

MERKEL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Joseph O'Malley, Superintendent

Minutes for the Student Health Advisory Council (SHAC) Meeting on 9-29-2021

The Merkel ISD Student Health Advisory Council met for the first time during the 2021-2022 school year on September 29, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in the Merkel ISD Administration Conference Room.

The following members were present were:

Joseph O'Malley, Superintendent
Kelli Pedone, MHS, BSN, RN - District RN and SHAC Coordinator/Co-Chair
K'rin Young, MMS Principal
Brin Reed, MISD Food Service Director
Carol Dunn, MMS Health Aide
Mandy Schuman, CPS, RSPS, Abilene Recovery Council CCP Coalition Coordinator
Daniel L. McDuff, RN, Parent

Meeting called to order at 4:10pm by Kelli Pedone.

Kelli Pedone discussed the purpose of the SHAC within school districts, that it is an advisory group to give suggestions to the school board, and that the State requires four meetings per year and that a parent is the co-chair of the council.

Joseph O'Malley made a motion to appoint Daniel McDuff, RN/Parent as co-chair to the council, and Mandy Schuman seconded the motion. All in favor.

The 2020-2021 SHAC report was reviewed by the current SHAC members to give an overview of what was done last year.

Deferred the discussion of a waiver request for TDA Summer Feeding Mandate due to the district using the SSO (Seamless Summer Option) this year, so no waiver is needed per Brin Reed, Food Service Director.

Brin Reed discussed the menus for each campus, the teacher menu added this year and the difficulty in obtaining paper goods and small plastic individual serving cups. Brin stated that the district approved the purchase of hard plastic trays for the students' lunches. She also stated that food supply is unstable nationwide and the menus may change due to availability of food.

Mr. O'Malley discussed the Merkel ISD Wellness Plan, a copy was given to each SHAC member and they were asked to review the Wellness Plan in depth on their own and we will review in more detail at the next meeting.

Kelli Pedone informed the SHAC that the StepBet Challenge began on 9/27/21 and will run for five (5) weeks as a means of having a wellness challenge for the staff and community. The concern for Covid limits group activities and the StepBet app allows participants to sign up and pay online.

Kelli Pedone discussed HB 1525 regarding changes to SHAC in the new legislation for Section 7, 28.004 of the Texas Education Code, and the requirement for SHAC to hold two (2) open meetings regarding sexual education curriculum prior to recommendation of curriculum to the school board.

Mr. O'Malley presented to SHAC that he wants the council to review the platform for FitnessGram. He will discuss more at the next meeting.

Mandy Schuman informed the council that her agency, Abilene Recovery Council, has Covid funding through the state Health and Human Services to provide events for trauma and stress from Covid for organizations in Taylor County. Mandy informed the council that her agency can partner with the school district in an event such as a fun run, turkey trot, yoga, community garden, etc. Mr. O'Malley will contact Mandy to set up an event for the district.

Mandy Schuman stated that her agency is partnering with the school district for Red Ribbon Week for drug prevention.

The meetings for the school year were scheduled. They are as follows: November 10th, February 16th, and April 13th.

Meeting adjourned at 5:01pm.